

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

2 INTRODUCED BY A. CURTISS

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO ACHIEVE RESOURCE SUSTAINABILITY BY PROMOTING THE
6 MULTIPLE-USE CONCEPT OF PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT AND TO RELEASE WILDERNESS STUDY
7 AREAS FOR MULTIPLE-USE MANAGEMENT.

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9 WHEREAS, Congress in 1977 enacted Public Law 95-150, which set aside approximately 1 million
10 acres of public land to be studied primarily for its potential for wilderness designation; and

11 WHEREAS, national forest lands are becoming defacto wilderness in lieu of congressional
12 decisionmaking; and

13 WHEREAS, uncertainty and wide swings in Executive Branch philosophy regarding the administration
14 of these lands is costing the public millions of dollars as forest assets burn and deteriorate and as investments
15 in forest road construction and improvements are being deliberately destroyed; and

16 WHEREAS, administrative decisions and preservationist lawsuits have progressively reduced access
17 to public lands for forest managers and the public; and

18 WHEREAS, the federal concept of ecosystem management results in no management of public forests
19 on a sustainable basis; and

20 WHEREAS, the long-term sustainability of public lands depends on good stewardship and professional
21 scientific site-specific management of forest resources; and

22 WHEREAS, Montana's historic heritage, customs, and culture are linked to the proper stewardship and
23 use of our natural resources; and

24 WHEREAS, Montana's economy has been severely impacted by recent management policies, resulting
25 in the closure of 19 sawmills since 1990 and causing the loss of over 1,900 primary industry jobs and over \$50
26 million in wages; and

27 WHEREAS, restrictions resulting from preservationist lawsuits and other federal regulatory actions have
28 devastated Montana's mining, oil, and gas industries; and

29 WHEREAS, restrictions resulting from preservationist lawsuits and other federal regulatory actions have
30 made farming and ranching in Montana more difficult; and

